

REMARKS

This correspondence is responsive to the office action mailed January 22, 2010 for the above-referenced application. In that Office Action, the Examiner cites quotes from Wood for a budgeting analysis tool which enables the user to compare current financial activity with modeled financial activity.” Page 4, 1st Paragraph. Nowhere in the Wood reference, however, is it taught that the virtual accounts set up under the budget are used to make purchasing decisions. The purpose of the present invention is to inform purchasers prior to making a purchase how that purchase will impact their budget for that category. This is to modify the purchasing behavior of the user. In contradistinction, Wood is an analysis tool used to analyze purchases which have already been made and to compare them with a budget. Although the term “current” is used in the description and appears to be emphasized by the Examiner to teach that the budget is reviewed prior to making a budgeting decision, it is clear from the title and the all description within the reference that this analysis tool is used to analyze purchases which have already been made.

In contradistinction, Claim 1 teaches “a forward-looking method for budgeting financial resources in an automated fashion to provide a running balance for real time categorical financial decision making.” To further emphasize that point, Claim 1 has been further amended in this office action to recite “aggregating the search results using the gateway displaying the search results over the internet to a local processor device viewable by a user to show the user the updated status of a virtual account before making a purchasing decision.” Although the first few steps in the method recited in Claim 1 do utilize Woods backward looking approach to allocating portions of a budget and comparing those purchases to the budgetary category to determine if there were funds remaining, the present invention adds the further steps of “automatically” using

a third party gateway to repeatedly access a plurality of financial institutions and to repeatedly search on-line credit card account and on-line checking account records of a plurality of actual financial accounts maintained by the plurality of financial institutions for recent purchases; aggregating the search results using the gateway and displaying the search results over the internet to a local processor device for review by the user before making a purchasing decision. This allows the instant invention to be loaded on and used through a portable device so that users can have financial information onsite and use that information in making a purchasing decision before the item is purchased.

Referring now to the Section 103 rejection involving the combination of Wood with Chancey and Wells, the Chancey reference is as stated in Column 1, Lines 65-67 and the top of Column 2 "a novel computerized system for automating the entry of transactions into a financial account stored in a computer." The purpose of the invention is given as simplifying and improving what has hereto for been a tedious manual task of entering and tracking transactions. Column 2, Lines 23-28 describe the assignment process as occurring as transactions are entered into a financial account stored in a computer. One form of the method includes determining from the electronic statement if a payee or transaction is of record and if so assigning the transaction to a category already associated with the payee. The improvements taught in the Chancey reference are increasing the speed and accuracy of assigning financial transactions.

This reference still relies, however, on a monthly statement of credit card purchases. In distinction, the present invention teaches "automatically using a third-party Internet-connected gateway to repeatedly access a plurality of financial institutions and to repeatedly search on-line credit card account and on-line checking account records of a plurality of actual financial accounts maintained by the plurality of financial institutions for recent purchases." This occurs

“for review by the user before making a purchasing decision.” The Chancey review occurs when the monthly credit card statement arrives and those purchases must be allocated to different budget categories.

Turning now to the Wells reference, Wells teaches in Column 3, Lines 51-55 that the Wells invention “enables the user to upload financial information to the database from a wide variety of remote input devices wired to the communication network and subsequently permits the users to download and integrate that information into their respective personal finance applications.” This is modified further in Column 4, Lines 12-19 wherein it is stated that the Well’s invention “temporarily stores financial information belonging to a plurality of users so that the users can provide information to the website from respective first computers and so that users can subsequently retrieve that information from respective second computers with each having a personal finance application with a user specific profile.” Wells is directed to incompatibility of different personal finance applications loaded on different computers and overcomes that by storing financial information in a format that can be transferred between those personal finance applications on separate computers.

In contrast, the present invention does not require that all of a user’s financial data be stored on a server and requested by the user to be downloaded into different applications. Instead, the present invention “automatically uses a third party internet connected gateway to repeatedly access a plurality of financial institutions and to repeatedly search on-line credit card account and on-line checking account records of a plurality of actual financial accounts maintained by the plurality of financial institutions for recent purchases.” The present invention pulls that data from a plurality of financial institutions and directly inputs that into the budgetary tool resident on the device. The present invention does not wait until a request is made from the

user to pull that information but instead pushes that information to the user's device absent any request from the user. This information is not stored on a server for transport between different financial applications but solely for the instant financial application described in the present invention.

For the reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully submits that neither Wells, Chancey or Woods or a combination thereof recite the invention set forth in amended Claim 1. Claims 11, Claim 32, Claim 33, and Claim 34, have also been amended to overcome the combination and applicants respectfully submit that those claims and those claims dependent therefrom now stand in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the amendments made herein make the application allowable. Should there be any questions that could advance this application which can be raised in a telephonic interview; Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to initiate the same.

DATED this 29th day of January, 2010.

Cordially,



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